

people here and throughout the country to borrow money, to expand their businesses, to start new businesses, to hire new people, to raise their wages. Let's have the right kind of tax cut, balance the budget, keep the interest rates down, keep the economy of Missouri and the United States of America going. That is the right thing to do.

We're going to prove you can protect the environment and grow the economy. There are 10 million kids living within 4 miles of a toxic waste dump. If you vote for us, we're going to clean up two-thirds of them in the next 4 years and make our kids grow up next to parks, not poison. That's the right thing to do for America's children.

We're going to build on our efforts to strengthen America's families and to help people succeed at work and at home. In all the crowds that I have been before over the last 4 years, when real Americans, ordinary Americans, hard-working Americans, the backbone of this country come out, I look and talk to people, and I don't ever meet a family that hasn't had some point in their lives where there's been a real challenge between the duty to raise their children well and their obligations at work.

That's why we passed the family and medical leave law and gave 12 million Americans a chance to take some time off for a baby's birth or a parent's sickness without losing their jobs. And that's why we want to expand the family and medical leave law, so people can take a

little time off to go to those parent-teacher conferences and the regular doctor's appointment with their kids. And we think there ought to be flextime rules so that if you earn overtime, depending on what's best for your family, you get to decide whether to take the overtime in money or extra time off if your children need it. That's the kind of America we're trying to build, stronger families for a brighter future working together.

Will you help us build that bridge to the 21st century?

*Audience members.* Yes!

*The President.* Will you say that in America, if you believe in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, if you're willing to work hard and play by the rules, we don't care what your race is, what your gender is, what your income is, where you're from, or where you started, you're all going across that bridge together with us, we're going arm in arm, together and strong? Can we do that? Will you help us for 68 days, all the way to November?

*Audience members.* Yes!

*The President.* Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:57 p.m. at Capaha Park. In his remarks, he referred to Emily Firebaugh, candidate for Missouri's Eighth Congressional District.

## Message on the Observance of Labor Day, 1996

*August 30, 1996*

Warm greetings to all Americans as we commemorate our nation's 102nd Labor Day holiday.

Each Labor Day we celebrate the accomplishments of our working men and women. Jobs drive our economy and ensure that the blessings of freedom will benefit generations to come. Labor Day is an opportunity to recognize those who began the fight to improve working conditions and labor laws for Americans, as well as those who continue to ensure dignity in the workplace, integrity in our society, and honor in the global marketplace.

This Labor Day, we have much to cheer, including 10 million new jobs created in the past three and a half years and better and safer pensions for 40 million workers and retirees. The Family and Medical Leave Act has permitted countless workers to care for loved ones without fear of losing their jobs or their seniority. And employees are now guaranteed that when they change jobs, they can take their health care coverage with them.

We observe this day knowing that the best is yet to come. Working together, management and labor can improve quality and efficiency,

reduce production costs, promote new job opportunities, and ensure safe and healthy working conditions.

As we pause to reflect on the contributions of America's workers, we should remember those who seek a job—who seek a piece of

the American Dream—and rededicate ourselves to making that dream possible for all Americans to achieve.

Best wishes to all for a memorable holiday.

BILL CLINTON

## Interview With Tabitha Soren of MTV August 30, 1996

*Ms. Soren.* Welcome, Mr. President, to our Choose or Lose bus.

*The President.* Thank you.

### *Antidrug Efforts*

*Ms. Soren.* Thank you very much for taking the time to do this on your bus tour.

In your speech last night you said that drugs were wrong and deadly. But on MTV a couple of years ago, someone asked you if you could inhale—if you could do it over again, would you inhale, and you said, “Yeah, I tried the first time.”

*The President.* That was true.

*Ms. Soren.* Do you wish that you had answered differently? Because Republicans are planning on using this to attack you.

*The President.* Oh, they're using it, but all I said was—I was just trying to make the point that I had never—when I answered the question I told the truth. I just told the truth about the question.

*Ms. Soren.* It was a joke?

*The President.* Yes.

*Ms. Soren.* The question was, in context, it was a light-hearted—

*The President.* It was a light-hearted question, and it wasn't in the context of some sort of endorsement of drug use, and they know that. If you look at the record I established as Governor, the record I've established as President, the things I've worked on, and if you look at the terrible price my own family has paid and my brother's problem which literally nearly killed him, I think that my position on this is clear.

I'm very concerned about it really because every so often, you know, years go by and we see drug use going down. We still see drug use going down among adults; that's the interesting thing. In the last 4 years, drug use among

people 18 to 34 has gone down because people have begun to think more about their own lives, their responsibilities then when they have children, and they began to be concerned about the risks.

But every few years, apparently, younger people believe it's not dangerous anymore and believe that the risks, if there are any, can be borne. The risks of, let's say, cocaine, heroin, and hallucinogens and marijuana are different kinds of risks, but there are real risks associated with all of them. And I'm very hopeful, now that General McCaffrey has come on and agreed to be our drug czar and we're focusing now—I wouldn't say exclusively but clearly primarily on people under 18, that we and people around the country will be able to do something about this.

### *Democratic National Convention*

*Ms. Soren.* I wanted to ask you another question about the convention. I think a lot of people were confused by what they saw at both conventions; they saw singing Senators and delegates macarena-ing. Obviously it's a party, you know, but many people didn't hear the message coming from the conventions.

For instance, obviously Christopher Reeve has done a lot of good for people who suffer from his disability, but why is his disability an argument to vote for you?

*The President.* For two reasons. One is, Christopher Reeve made an impassioned plea for research. In my budget we have consistently invested more in research, both in health care areas like spinal cord disease, breast cancer, HIV, and AIDS, and also in science and technology. We're now building with IBM a computer, a supercomputer that will do more calculations in a second than a person with a hand-held calculator could do in 30,000 years—30,000